

# Front Page - 2020 01

## Christ Who Worshipped - Part 1

### Introduction

In our perhaps unconscious perception of life, it is lived on two levels, the spiritual and the mundane. This is natural for we live in a world of the seen and felt. In contrast to us, the Lord did not have a split perspective on life. Every natural human work He did had a spiritual perspective. When as the Carpenter He made a yoke, how perfectly it would have fitted the animals. He could have lifted it to God and said, "This was made for Thy glory" for He came to glorify the Father (Jn. 17:4). All the miracles He performed, the messages He gave, the discourses He spoke, were all geared toward the spiritual proving that He was the Christ, the Son of God and bringing God and the Father into view. Nothing was done for the sake of doing it. Time was not wasted. Life, while totally living the normal human life, was lived on the spiritual level.

Dr. Luke, the writer of the Acts of the Apostles, began his declaration to Theophilus by stating, "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach" (Acts 1:1). The order is significant because it does not say, "what Jesus taught and did", it is, "that Jesus began both to do and teach". Furthermore, the Lord said, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (Jn. 4:23, 24). This being so and the Lord as our example, it is expected that He also would worship the Father and in truth! Someone will observe that we read of the Lord praying but not of Him worshipping, a statement which is quite true. He did tell the Devil, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God" (Matt. 4:10). But I am not aware of anywhere where we read of the Lord "departing into a desert place to worship". The reason is quite simple, the entire life of the Lord was one of worshipping God! To those familiar with the burnt offering, the ascending offering of Leviticus chapter one, it prefigured the un-fluctuating perfections of the Lord constantly ascending to God.

However, before considering the "Christ who worshipped", I deem it important to consider what worship is. In these days of "worship songs" and "worship leaders" with all sorts of loud receptive music, which so often is unbiblical and without harmony, the question is, when tested against scripture, "Is any of this worship?". What is worship? Worship is a spiritual experience.

*Worship is the results of the Holy Spirit's unveiling to the human heart, that recognizes rights and glories of God, being ideally automatically responded to. Christ not only recognized God's rights, but lived in devotion to God.*

When considering Abraham and Isaac, at the time of worship not a word was spoken. It was activity of a man responding to the rights of God for the glory of God. The offering of the sacrifices and the building of the Tabernacle were acts of worship for they were done by the enlightenment of God, for the glory of God, having recognized the rights of God. Therefore, I say that the entire life of the Lord was a life of worship.

### Jesus the Worshipper of God the Father

When I say that the entire life of the Lord was a continual worship I am reminded of the frankincense when it was put on the altar. The fragrance of it rose to the nostrils of God as a sweet smelling fragrance (Lev. 2:2; 6:15). The Lord's life was a continual living for the glory of God by every thought. All He wrought was done for God's glorification. He ever gave God His rightful place, did everything according to His will, in His way, and in His time with the purest of motives. It is easy to read the gospel narratives and listen to the parables He spoke and the miracles He wrought, but fail to see the purposes that caused each of them. His will was to finish the work God gave Him to do. There could be no wavering or casualness, or doing God's will reluctantly. God loveth a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7) and Christ had to give all to God cheerfully. This was worshipping in spirit and truth. Some of the ways in which I see the Lord worshipping God the Father and giving Him His rights (Rev. 4:11) are:

- a) His willingness to come into this world and be a human being.
  - i) We often hear the words of Isaiah and applying them to God and the Lord, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, "Here am I; send me" (Isa. 6:8). Then when the body was prepared, it is my understanding the Lord entered that body for it is written, "A body hast Thou

# Front Page - 2020 01

## Christ Who Worshipped - Part 1

prepared me” (Heb. 10:5), whereupon He could say, “Lo, I come to do thy will” (Heb. 10:9). Saul who became Paul was a young man, a man zealous of the law in extremity. When He, seeing the Lord, said “Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6). But this was a major characteristic of the life of the Lord from His birth. He could well have said, “Thou art my God from my mother’s belly” (Psa. 22:10). In becoming human the Lord had already humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant and becoming a little lower than the angels was made in the likeness of sinful man (Phil. 2:7). What an act of worship that was.

### b) Christ and His life

i) It is astounding trying to grasp that everything about the life of the Lord was for God’s glory. That was the goal, love was the motive and cheerfulness was the attitude. It was not an easy life He lived, for men love darkness rather than light (Jn. 3:19) and since John was a burning and a shining light (Jn. 5:35), how much greater was the Lord who was the Light of the world (Jn. 8:12; 9:5). Every miracle was a sign, wonder and power. A sign of who He was, the power of God flowing through Him for all was done by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the wonders indicate the effect His miracles had on others.

### c) Christ in Gethsemane

i) In coming to Gethsemane one is entering a thrice holy place where there is displayed the beginning of the supreme act of worship the Lord could give to the Father. Gethsemane is so sacred one would venture into it with great reverential awe. Others had come and knelt before Him (Mk. 10:17) but in Gethsemane the Lord kneels and begins to pray. One can almost feel the reverential pleading of the Lord when He prays, “O my Father” (Matt. 26:39). This was no light speaking to God. It was a man with an intensely burdened heart for the glory of God, willing to endure whatever it necessitated to bring the ultimate glory to God by defeating the works of the devil, and laying the foundation for reconciling the whosoever to God. See the wonder of this act and words of worship when God is given His supreme right over a human. Not in compliance which is obligated or demanded, but in an unreserved bowing of His will to the will of God. That is worship. As we listen to the words when the Lord not only kneels but lying prostrate on the ground, how much anguish must have filled the hearts of the three disciples. They evidently could see His form in the Olive grove as they heard His strong crying. I remember seeing my father cry twice. As I heard his anguish it broke my heart. It was not a soft weeping but the cries of agony. The Lord is praying, pleading with strong crying and tears and speaks the words, not of resignation, but of glorious worship, “Not my will, but thine, be done” (Lk. 22:42). I cannot imagine the deep thrill that must have filled the heart of the Father as He saw a man on earth so completely unreserved in devotion to God and worship of God.

### d) Christ in the trials

i) In life we all come into situations where we are slighted, mocked or humiliated. It is not only exceedingly embarrassing, but how little the individual feels, longing for it all to be over. When I read of Herod’s men, the chief priests, the scribes and the elders mocking Him (Matt. 27:41), all I can say is, “It must have been dreadful beyond words”. Then there was added to the mocking, the humiliating by the soldiers; the suffering from the crown of thorns; the buffeting with the fists; the blind folding and His being used as an object of mirth. Even the drunks sang a song about him. How amazing is He in that He took all their mockery and felt sorry for them, even praying later that the Lord would forgive them. He took it to be fully fitted to be our High Priest and doing it all for the glory of God. It was worship, giving to God His rightful place of utter supremacy, having ones will completely yielded to God.

.. . . Rowan Jennings